

**RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**July 10, 2014**

**Members (Alternates) Present**

Parker C. Agelasto.....City of Richmond  
Daniel Arkin .....City of Richmond  
Evan Fabricant..... Hanover County  
Daniel A. Gecker, Treasurer..... Chesterfield County  
Richard W. Glover ..... Henrico County  
Kathy C. Graziano .....City of Richmond  
Angela Kelly-Wiecek ..... Hanover County  
James M. Holland..... Chesterfield County  
David A. Kaechele ..... Henrico County  
Eric Leabough ..... Henrico County  
Floyd H. Miles, Secretary.....Charles City County  
John H. Mitchell ..... Henrico County  
Patricia S. O'Bannon ..... Henrico County  
C. Harold Padgett ..... Hanover County  
Ken Peterson, Chairman ..... Goochland County  
W. Canova Peterson ..... Hanover County  
Edward W. Pollard ..... New Kent County  
Faye O. Prichard.....Town of Ashland  
Randall R. Silber (A)..... Henrico County

**Members Absent**

Jonathan T. Baliles .....City of Richmond  
Karin Carmack ..... Powhatan County  
Timothy M. Davey ..... Chesterfield County  
Steve A. Elswick ..... Chesterfield County  
Russell J. Gulley..... Chesterfield County  
Dorothy Jaeckle..... Chesterfield County  
Tyrone E. Nelson..... Henrico County  
Rodney Poole .....City of Richmond  
Charles R. Samuels.....City of Richmond  
Frank J. Thornton ..... Henrico County  
C. Thomas Tiller..... New Kent County  
Carson Tucker ..... Powhatan County  
Arthur S. Warren ..... Chesterfield County  
David Williams, Vice Chairman ..... Powhatan County

**Others Present**

John Blackwell..... Richmond Times-Dispatch  
Tyee Davenport..... Office of Sen. Tim Kaine  
Nicole Colomb Monk ..... VCU Innovation Gateway  
Carrie Roth..... Virginia BioTechnology Research Park  
Joanne Simmelink..... Chesterfield County Planning Department  
Myra Smith ..... Leadership Metro Richmond

**Staff Present**

Robert A. Crum ..... Executive Director  
Jo A. Evans..... Assistant Executive Director  
Julie H. Fry ..... Executive Secretary  
Sulabh Aryal..... Associate Planner  
Anne Darby ..... Senior Planner  
Chuck Gates ..... Communications Coordinator  
Barbara Jacocks ..... Principal Planner  
Jin Lee ..... Senior Planner  
Daniel N. Lysy ..... Director, Transportation  
Josh Mallow ..... Intern  
Dillon Massey..... Intern  
Kathy Robins ..... Senior Planner  
Greta Ryan..... Senior Planner  
Jackie Stewart..... Director, Planning  
Peter M. Sweetland..... Finance and Contracts Administrator

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**Call to Order**

Outgoing Chairman Kelly-Wiecek called the regularly scheduled July 10, 2014 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 9:10 a.m. in the RRPDC board room. She then led members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

**I. ADMINISTRATION**

**A. Certification by Commission Executive Director of Meeting Quorum**

Mr. Crum certified that a quorum of members was present.

**B. Installation of FY15 Officers**

Outgoing Chairman Kelly-Wiecek said it has been a pleasure to serve as Chairman over the past year. She enjoyed the experience and the opportunity to work with members and staff. She asked all officers-elect to stand to take the oath of office.

Outgoing Chairman Kelly-Wiecek said those being sworn into office are:

Ken Peterson, Chairman  
David Williams (absent), Vice Chairman  
Dan Gecker, Treasurer  
Floyd Miles, Secretary

Following administration of the oath of office, members congratulated the new officers with a round of applause.

Chairman Peterson said he wanted to thank Ms. Kelly-Wiecek on behalf of members for her service over the past year. He said he appreciated her willingness to serve as Chairman for the past year, adding that responsibility to one of many she has undertaken, including serving on the Capital Region Collaborative and being a member of the Hanover County Board of Supervisors. Chairman Peterson presented Ms. Kelly-Wiecek with a small token of appreciation from the RRPDC for her service.

Members thanked Ms. Kelly-Wiecek with a round of applause.

Chairman Peterson said in the short time he has been a member of the RRPDC Board, he has held almost all four officer positions. He noted that many members have been on the Board a lot longer and he will look to those members for advice and counsel as he begins his tenure as Chairman. He noted there is a lot of talent on the Board and that by working together, everyone can accomplish many good things for the Region. Chairman Peterson said he was looking forward to the coming year.

### **C. Requests for Additions or Changes to the Order of Business**

Chairman Peterson asked if there were any additions or changes to be made to the agenda. There were no requests to change the agenda, and the agenda was accepted as presented.

### **D. Open Public Comment Period**

As there were no requests from the public to address the Commission, Chairman Peterson closed the public comment period.

### **E. Chairman's Report**

Chairman Peterson announced that the term of Ms. Lynn McAteer on the RRPDC Board has expired. She represented the City of Richmond's Planning Commission on the RRPDC Board. During this morning's meeting, members of the Executive Committee approved a resolution of appreciation for Ms. McAteer, which will be forwarded to her by staff on behalf of the RRPDC Board. She is being replaced by Mr. Rodney Poole, who is also on the Richmond Planning Commission. Chairman Peterson noted that Mr. Poole is not in attendance today.

Chairman Peterson said that typically the August PDC meetings are cancelled unless agenda items are identified that need to be addressed. He reported that the Executive Committee recommends cancellation of the August meetings. Chairman Peterson asked if there was a motion to cancel the August 14 meetings unless agenda items needing attention are brought forward. Mr. Fabricant so moved and the motion was seconded by Ms. Kelly-Wiecek. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Peterson noted that the Large and Small Jurisdictions Committees typically convene in August in order to begin work on the regional legislative agenda. He said he would ask staff to coordinate this meeting in order to discuss several strategic planning items. Chairman Peterson said he would ask Mr. Crum to develop an agenda for this discussion and asked members to let either him or Mr. Crum know of any items they would like to bring before the Large and Small Jurisdictions Committees. During the September Board meeting, the outcome of the discussions will be reported. Chairman Peterson said some of the topics will include whether state legislators should be engaged by the RRPDC and if so, when and how; discussion on the current office lease and options; and discussion on the regional indicators project.

Chairman Peterson recognized Ms. O'Bannon. Ms. O'Bannon said she would like to have someone from Dominion Virginia Power address members on Dominion's proposed rate increase. She said a similar presentation was made previously on how Dominion would address air quality around coal fired plants. Ms. O'Bannon said a rate increase has been announced and she would like to have more information on the reasoning for the increase.

Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Crum if staff could contact Dominion and request a presentation. Mr. Crum said he is meeting at Dominion this afternoon on another matter, and he will bring up that request.

Mr. Holland said he concurred with Ms. O'Bannon's request to have Dominion address the Board on the proposed rate increase.

## **F. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Crum brought members' attention to the staff activity report, which is included in the agenda book under Tab 1 and details work being advanced by staff on behalf of the localities. He said staff will be happy to address any questions on what is included in the report.

Mr. Crum reminded members of their action to authorize staff to host the regional indicators project provided that funding could be secured to support these efforts. Mr. Crum reported that the Robins Foundation has awarded a grant to RRPDC in the amount of \$75,000 for use in supporting work on the regional indicators project. Mr. Crum said staff is very appreciative of this award, and he noted it requires no local match. As a reminder, The Community Foundation provided a grant to research what groundwork

would need to be put into place before the project could begin. Mr. Crum said status reports will be provided to members over the course of the year as work is undertaken. He said the indicators project will provide data on where improvements need to be made regionally to increase economic development as well as success in other areas.

Mr. Crum reminded the Board that members had previously authorized him to participate in Richmond's Future, a think tank headed up by Dr. Eugene Trani. Dr. Trani has asked Mr. Crum to co-chair a Logistics Sub-Committee to meet with key business leaders who are involved in logistics, in order to determine what the Region can do to become a leader in logistics. Mr. Crum said some of the discussions will involve requests to businesses to move some of their freight to the barge service out of the Port of Richmond. The Region has taken a leadership role through the MPO to provide funding and support for the barge service at the Port of Richmond as well as infrastructure improvements in the area around this facility. The sub-committee will meet next week and a report will be provided to members at the next meeting.

Ms. O'Bannon said the new paper company (Tranlin) that is going to locate in Chesterfield County has indicated it plans to utilize the Port of Richmond.

Mr. Crum said initial meetings with local businesses have shown an interest in the barge service. He thanked members for their support of and investment in the barge service in its early stages.

Ms. O'Bannon said she understood the Port of Richmond needs another crane.

Mr. Crum said that last year the MPO took action to allocate funds to the Port for a second crane. The Virginia Port Authority is currently working to procure the crane.

Chairman Peterson said it will be important for businesses to use the Port not only to transport items to Hampton Roads, but to bring goods from Hampton Roads back to the Port of Richmond.

Mr. Arkin noted this is the second time Ms. O'Bannon has discussed items relating to traffic on the James River. The first time was to bring attention to Henrico County's role in providing emergency services for incidents that take place on the river. He said if increased barge service is going to be encouraged, then attention will need to be paid to the increased potential for hazardous accidents. Mr. Arkin said the Region would need to be prepared to handle such accidents. He said he would encourage someone to deal with the issue and make recommendations on how the Region can protect itself without relying solely on Henrico County.

Ms. O'Bannon said the county has applied for resources to purchase special equipment for emergencies on the James River. She thanked Mr. Arkin for bringing this to everyone's attention again.

Mr. Crum said staff will work with local emergency management coordinators on this issue and will provide a report to members at a future meeting.

### **G. Environmental and Intergovernmental Reviews**

Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Crum to provide information on this item.

Mr. Crum said RRPDC staff contacts partner agencies to ask for comments regarding each review and then compiles the comments to return to the appropriate reviewing agency. This report is provided for members' information only and requires no action. He said these are provided to members to inform them of the work being done by RRPDC staff in cooperation with local staffs as part of the statutory requirements for the agency and to let members know about development activities in their neighboring jurisdictions.

Mr. Crum said he would like to bring attention to the last item listed in the report, which is a permit application by Henrico and Charles City Counties for the New Market section of the Virginia Capital Trail.

## **II. CONSENT AGENDA**

Chairman Peterson said the Executive Committee recommended approval of the items listed on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Meeting Minutes – June 12, 2014
- B. Financial Report – May 2014
- C. Dues Restructure for Jurisdictions Partially Within the Richmond Area MPO Study Area Boundary

Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Crum if he would provide more information on these items.

Mr. Crum said the first two items are routine – minutes from last month's meeting and the monthly financial report. Item C is being brought to the RRPDC from the MPO Board. This will involve a modification to the way jurisdictions pay dues to support MPO planning activities. Traditionally 5 cents per capita is charged to jurisdictions in their entirety to provide a local match to support MPO planning activities. The proposed change will levy the 5 cents per capita charge to only the areas within the MPO Study Area Boundary. For the western areas of Goochland and Powhatan Counties and the eastern portion of Charles City and New Kent Counties, the 5 cents per capita charge would not be made. The southern portion of Chesterfield County is included in the Tri-Cities MPO and would not be levied the 5 cents per capita MPO assessment. There is a summary sheet under Tab 5 that shows the impact of this change. The total dues revenue reduction would be \$3,790.00. Mr. Crum said staff recommends approval of the change. He noted that the MPO Board unanimously approved the request, and the RRPDC Executive Committee endorsed the request during their meeting this morning.

Mr. Holland made a motion that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented. Ms. O'Bannon seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no Unfinished Business to bring before the Board.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. Appointments of FY15 Standing and Ad Hoc Committees.**

Chairman Peterson reported that the RRPDC Bylaws give the Chairman authority to appointment members to Standing and Ad Hoc Committees with the concurrence of the Executive Committee. During this morning's Executive Committee meeting, concurrence was given with regard to the appointments. A listing of the appointments is included under Tab 6.

Standing Committees are:

- Executive Committee
- Personnel and Operating Policies Committee
- Charter and Bylaws Committee
- Audit Committee

Ad Hoc Committees are:

- Large Jurisdictions Committee
- Small Jurisdictions Committee
- Capital Region Collaborative

Chairman Peterson said that all members have agreed to serve as listed, and he noted that no formal action by the Board is required.

#### **B. Virginia BioTechnology Research Park Strategic Plan**

Chairman Peterson asked Mr. Crum to introduce today's speakers.

Mr. Crum introduced Ms. Carrie Roth, Interim President and CEO of the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park, and Nicole Colomb, Enterprise and Economic Development Executive with the VCU Innovation Gateway. Mr. Crum said there has been a lot of conversation through the CEDS development, the Capital Region Collaborative, and other organizations about innovation, business start-up, and creating an environment that is attractive to entrepreneurs. What Ms. Roth and Ms. Colomb will present today ties in with these conversations. Mr. Crum said he would encourage

members to ask how the jurisdictions can connect with the organizations and take advantage of the resources.

Ms. Roth thanked members for the invitation to speak with them today. As background, Ms. Roth noted that previously she served as Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia, focusing on innovation and how to be more competitive. She said she has lived in many areas of the Region and she is very pleased to be able to continue her work in the Region in this new position.

She said innovation has continued to be an evolving model for the state as the state's history has progressed. She said the BioTech Park must also adapt and innovate and better leverage its partners and resources.

The BioTech Park will refocus, reinvigorate, reengage, and rebrand. Ms. Roth provided several examples of how these changes will be accomplished. She noted the changes will be made by repositioning and rebranding the BioTech Park as a core place component of a comprehensive regional innovation system, which will take revolutionary action for transformational change.

Ms. Roth reviewed the BioTech Park's strategic vision. There will be a Regional Innovation Council, which will concentrate on the following:

- Virginia Biotechnology Research Partnership Authority (rebrand)
- human capital: entrepreneurship training and mentoring; academic degree programs; workforce education and training
- research and development activity: technology management (broadly defined); university-industry R&D partnerships
- place-making: R&D facilities; community amenities
- university activity: innovation, entrepreneurial, and economic development driver

At this time, Ms. Roth asked Ms. Colomb to provide information on what VCU is doing to complement the work of the BioTech Park.

Ms. Colomb said she will provide information on what VCU has been doing over the last two years to focus in on entrepreneurship, new venture creation, and mathematic development. Stakeholders were brought together from around the Region and within the university to develop a strategy that will cultivate a sense of entrepreneurship at VCU through its faculty and students.

There are four main objectives to the strategy:

1. support entrepreneurial faculty: 2,000 faculty members that attract \$250 million in sponsored research
  - a. results over the past 5 years: 519 new invention disclosures and 646 patent applications
  - b. results over the last year: over 175 faculty engaged in start-up programs

2. support entrepreneurial students: 31,000 students; 50% interest in starting a company; 15% trying now or have already started a company
  - a. results over the 2012-13 academic year: 60 students engaged in entrepreneurial programs
  - b. results over the 2013-14 academic year: over 800 students engaged in new entrepreneurial programs; over 125 new company/product ideas have been heard
3. university-wide coordination: implement supportive programs; monitor and evaluate results; all faculty and students have access to the resources; be efficient with resources
4. regional collaboration: Center for Innovative Technologies; New Richmond Ventures; RichTech; BizWorks; RVAWorks; TechHatch; 804RVA; among others

Ms. O'Bannon asked if there were categories other than biotechnology. Ms. Colomb said the majority of faculty members lean toward the medical and biotech fields. Students have interests in many different fields. She said when students have ideas, there are ways to have these evaluated and if viable, resources can be made available to develop and bring the ideas to market.

Ms. Colomb provided examples of how faculty and students are overcoming obstacles, being creative, saving lives, providing motivation, preventing diseases, developing fun items, developing new products, and remaining active in the learning process.

Mr. C. Peterson asked if the "bio" portion of the BioTech Park was still active as he heard a lot about technology during the presentation. Ms. Roth said the Park will be a place for life sciences, which is what the majority of companies within the Park are focusing on. The Park wants to help harness the innovation ecosystem in the Region and to be the first point of contact for resources for all types of entrepreneurs. Ms. Roth noted that the Region's economy is changing and entrepreneurial business is where job growth is going to be moving forward.

Ms. Colomb added that net job growth in the United States is accomplished through start-up companies.

Mr. Fabricant asked if the BioTech Park takes an ownership stake in a company and if there is an expectation for some type of repayment should the company become successful. Ms. Roth said the in-kind services that are provided to the new company can turn into an investment. However, there is no requirement for any type of equity stake.

Mr. Kaechele asked about the source of the research grants. He said he would also like to know who owns the patents and who benefits from any royalties. Ms. Colomb said the major source for the grants is the National Science Foundation (NSF). She noted some industries have also been contributing as federal grant funds diminish. Patents that are developed at VCU are owned by VCU. The Innovation Gateway is responsible for licensing the technologies to get them on the market. VCU will work with partners to find the best match for getting the technologies to market. The licensing terms vary, but there is a percentage that is returned to the Innovation Gateway for reinvestment into

patents and a percentage goes to the inventor. She said she believes forty percent is returned to the inventor. Ms. Colomb said compared with other universities around the country that provide similar services, the forty percent is a generous amount to be returned to the inventors.

Ms. O'Bannon asked if Innovation Gateway does any of its work online or if all of the work is done here in Richmond. Ms. Colomb said faculty and students are connected to resources and alumni partners wherever the best match can be found – here in the Region or in another part of the world. The economic benefit from new technologies will stay in the Region.

Ms. O'Bannon asked if VCU has an online presence for this innovation program. Ms. Colomb said at this time there is no entrepreneurial online program. Ms. O'Bannon asked if this is a proprietary process. Ms. Colomb said VCU is focused on developing a talent pool within the Region to keep capital development in the Region. Ms. O'Bannon said it sounds like VCU is combining scientific and business programs.

Ms. Roth said that the Research Park can offer a virtual resident opportunity. A person can have access to all of the technology and other entrepreneurial support without having to be physically on site. One of the benefits of this opportunity is that it gives the virtual residents a physical address, which assists in the grants application process. There is now a new generation of open source workers who like to share ideas in order to improve them.

Ms. O'Bannon said she has noticed that attitude as well with younger business people. They seem to be more interested in problem solving. Ms. Roth agreed with that assessment. She said the Research Park is trying to provide the wrap-around resources that are now preferred.

Mr. Holland asked if there is one office that coordinates all of the thirteen schools that are involved with the Innovation Gateway. Ms. Colomb said Innovation Gateway is the central source for information. Ms. Roth noted that Innovation Gateway is located within the Research Park.

Mr. Glover asked how many students are enrolled in all thirteen schools. Ms. Colomb said there are 31,000 students.

Mr. Fabricant asked how the Research Park is defining *life sciences*. Ms. Roth said life sciences includes agriculture. She said there is a lot of science that goes into development of new products, such as craft beer for example. Community amenities are also part of the equation. Hardywood Park chose the Richmond area for their craft brewery because of the amenities that the Region offers.

Mr. C. Peterson said he did not see the Hanover County incubator listed as one of the partners involved with Innovation Gateway. Ms. Roth said the Dominion Resources Innovation Center started at the Research Park and she apologized for the omission in her

comments. She said the company began as a green-tech incubator focused on alternative fuels. It is a very important part of the innovation ecosystem. Ms. Roth said the Research Park is focused on not duplicating efforts.

Ms. Colomb said the Dominion incubator is represented on one of the evaluation panels at Innovation Gateway.

Mr. Kaechele asked how much revenue Innovation Gateway receives from the state. Ms. Roth said during the previous biennium, the Research Park received \$250,000 per year. There are no funds in the current budget. She said the original funding did come from the state in the form of a \$5 million bond to construct the first building in the Park. Currently there is no funding from any state or local entity.

Ms. O'Bannon asked if faculty members are required to work on a project instead of publishing reports/articles. Ms. Colomb said faculty is asked to come to Innovation Gateway prior to publication of any paper. Innovation Gateway will file a protection for the paper before it is published. She said Innovation Gateway is working with faculty to educate them on the need to protect their intellectual property.

Ms. Roth said that VCU has invested \$40 million in the Research Park over the Park's lifetime. Mr. Glover noted that VCU is a state-funded university.

Chairman Peterson asked if there is a focus on a five-year success plan. Ms. Roth said this plan is part of the new metrics for the Park. She said the Park wants to provide the tools needed to get new entrepreneurs past five years.

Chairman Peterson asked how RRPDC members can participate in what the Research Park and Innovation Gateway have to offer to the Region. Ms. Roth encouraged members to call her for more information. She said the Park wants to be seen as a place that provides resources for start-up companies and the support to grow them to their full capacity. Ms. Roth said when start-ups are ready to manufacture, it is important to have the manufacturing done in the Region. She said there is not enough contract manufacturing in the Region and new businesses must go out of state to find contract manufacturing. The Park is looking for solutions to this problem.

Chairman Peterson asked if the presentation and contact information can be provided to members of the Board. Mr. Crum said staff will make sure the information is available to members.

Ms. O'Bannon suggested that the next InterCity Visit should be an *IntraCity* Visit to the Research Park. Ms. Roth said the Research Park would be very pleased to host an RRPDC Board meeting at any time to provide a tour of the facility.

Chairman Peterson thanked Ms. Roth and Ms. Colomb for their presentation. He said the information was very interesting. Ms. Roth added that the Research Park is very appreciative for the work done on the CEDS and for the RRPDC Board's approval of the

document. She said the CEDS will open new grant opportunities that were not available to the Park previously.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to come before the Board.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no additional business to bring before the Board, Chairman Peterson adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:15 a.m.

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Robert A. Crum, Jr.  
Executive Director

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Ken Peterson  
Chairman